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SIPDIS

STATE FOR S/CT AND TTIC, EUR/NB

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TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PTER](#) [FI](#)

SUBJECT: FINLAND: 2004 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT

REF: STATE 245841

1. (U) This report is keyed to the applicable questions in reftel para 15. The Embassy's summary update has also been emailed to John Kincannon and Kiersten McCutchan per reftel instructions.

2. (U) a) Finland actively supports and participates in the European Union's counterterrorism efforts, and in 2004 participated in a number of EU and OSCE-sponsored events.

b) Finland is strongly committed to Afghan reconstruction and prevention of the resurgence of the Taliban. Afghanistan is a major recipient of Finland's foreign assistance; Finland aims to disburse about 10 million Euros in development and humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan each year. Approximately 70 Finnish troops are currently deployed in Afghanistan in support of ongoing ISAF operations, and a number of Finnish civilian crisis management experts are working in Afghanistan as well. Finland is a member, along with the UK and Norway, of a Provincial Reconstruction Team in Meymaneh in northern Afghanistan.

Ten Finnish instructors are currently at the police academy in Amman training Iraqi police.

In December 2004, Finland signed a bilateral Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) with the United States, bringing the Finnish-American relationship into conformity with the EU-U.S. Mutual Legal assistance Treaty executed in 2003.

c) In January 2004, the Finnish Security Police dedicated a special unit to concentrate solely on fighting terrorism, the first of its kind in Finland. Finland in 2004 pledged 1 million Euros to help fund a UN Protection Force in Iraq. Finland has national authority to freeze terrorist assets. The Money Laundering Clearing House performs investigations on all individuals suspected of financing terrorist acts, including all individuals and entities on the UN 1267 sanctions committee's consolidated list. To date no Finns have been suspected of financing terrorism and no funds of foreign nationals suspected of terrorist financing have been located in Finland. In the event that funds are found, the assets could be frozen without undue delay for five business days. For the funds to remain frozen, a criminal investigation must be launched (either in Finland or abroad). The funds would remain frozen for the period of the investigation.

e) Finland has implemented regulations that allow it to freeze assets without EU or UN approval in cases when another government presents a legal request for action or when the individual or organization is suspected of having committed an offense within Finland's borders. Finland has also amended its criminal code to make it possible to sentence leaders of terrorist groups to 15 years in jail, although the group has to have actually committed acts of terrorism in Finland before investigation or prosecution can begin. If the charge also includes murder, the maximum sentence could be life imprisonment. Finnish law enforcement has the authority to intercept wire, oral, and email communications with prior judicial approval in cases where national security interests are involved. There is no special magistrate for counterterrorism, and the source for such judicial approval would depend upon the nature of the case.

h) Finnish Security Police in 2004 created a special unit concentrating solely on fighting terrorism. Effective July 1, 2004, the Parliament of Finland enacted legislation in support of the International Maritime Organization's amendment to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the International Ship and Port facility Security Code. Finnish authorities confirm that they are complying on schedule with the legislation's requirements, and that each of Finland's port facilities have submitted security plans that have been approved by the Finnish Maritime Administration.

j) Finland currently has about 70 troops inside Afghanistan in support of ongoing ISAF operations.

l) Finland supports the Global War on Terrorism. However, some Finnish officials and most of the general public believe

the likelihood of a terrorist attack inside Finland to be remote.

o) Finland has a relatively small Muslim community. The Government of Finland monitors some individuals believed to have ties to terrorist organizations outside of the country.

13. (U) Summary for Finland:

Finland actively supports the Global War on Terrorism. Finland has implemented regulations that allow it to freeze assets without EU or UN approval in cases when another government presents a legal request for action or the individual or organization is suspected of having committed an offense within Finland's borders. Finland has also amended its criminal code to make it possible to sentence leaders of terrorist groups to 15 years in jail, although the group has to have actually committed acts of terrorism in Finland before the investigation and prosecution can begin. If the charge also includes murder, the maximum sentence could be life imprisonment. In January 2004, the Finnish Security Police also created a special unit concentrating solely on fighting terrorism, the first of its kind in Finland.

Finland is committed to rebuilding Afghanistan and preventing the resurgence of the Taliban. Approximately 70 Finnish troops are currently deployed in Afghanistan in support of ongoing ISAF operations, and a number of Finnish civilian crisis management experts are working inside Afghanistan as well. Afghanistan is a major recipient of Finland's foreign aid, which includes support for the Afghan army and police force. Finland aims to disburse approximately 10 million Euros in development and humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan each year.

The Finns have ten instructors at the police training academy in Amman to help train Iraqi police personnel. At the 2004 Doha donors' conference, Finland held one of the two chairs set aside for small donors. Finland pledged 5 million Euros in development and humanitarian assistance to Iraq, and a further 1 million Euros to help fund a UN Protection Force inside Iraq.

Finland is a party to all 12 international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, and has implemented all applicable EU legislation against terrorism.  
WEISBERG